The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" I may say that so far as I am aware the question of the official year does not interfere with the construction of buildings or other works."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—" That is looking with complacency at the fact that in February and March building work is done hurriedly."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" Does the hon. Member suggest that the building construction is confined to a part of the official year ? "

Rao Bahadur T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar :—" I believe there was some correspondence between the Government of India and the Local Governments on this subject and that the Local Governments were asked for their opinion."

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" If my memory serves me, it was over two years ago that the Government of India, with whom the final decision rests, decided that the existing system should be adhered to."

Economic condition.

Purchase of produce from the Agency people in Gudem taluk.

* 114 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether any notices were issued by the authorities that traders from the plains shall not purchase produce from the Agency people in the Gudem taluk except in weekly shandies ; and

(b) if so, what is the authority for issuing such notices ?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. Narasimha Raju :—" Will the Government be pleased to call for the information ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. Marjoribanks :—" A report was called for at the time, but I am sorry this was not mentioned in the answer. As soon as the facts have been ascertained, they will be communicated to the hon. Member, or if he prefers it, he may put down a fresh question."

Land Revenue.

Levy on demarcation of lands for assignment.

* 115 Q.—Mr. K. Raghuchandra Ballal : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether of late a fee of Rs. 2 is being levied from each applicant for assignment of Government waste land before measuring and demarcating it by the village officers ;

(b) whether such levy is in accordance with the Madras Revenue Recovery Act or any other statutory provision ;

(c) whether such levy has been sanctioned by the Government ;

(d) if so, whether such sanction has been recommended by this Council ;

(e) whether it is a fact that a part of such fees is being paid to the village karnam as remuneration ;

(f) whether it is not an unnecessary hardship to collect such fees from all applicants indiscriminately ; and

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(*g*) whether the Government have any objection to direct the refund of such fees to applicants who happen to be unsuccessful in obtaining any portion of the land proposed to be assigned ?

A.—(*a*), (*c*) & (*e*). The hon. Member's attention is drawn to G.O. No. 1649, Revenue, dated 8th November 1923, which was placed on the Council table on 14th October 1924.

(*b*) & (*d*) Subdivision fee is not collected under the provisions of any Act. It is a payment demanded for service to be rendered.

(*f*) & (*g*) Subdivision fees are not collected indiscriminately. Exemption is granted in the case of assignments to members of depressed classes as such and discretion is given to Collectors to waive the subdivision fee in respect of assignments to ex-soldiers. Further the fee is refunded in all cases in which the subdivision for which the fee is paid is not made.

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it not a fact that Re. 1 is asked for when an application is made for the subdivision of a plot ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS : —" I am not quite certain. The subdivision fee is, I think, Rs. 2."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Is it done under the recent rules published by the Government under the Survey and Boundary Rules or is it done under any other authority ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" No. It is not done under those rules. It is a matter determined by executive rules."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether the sanction of this Council has been obtained for such a levy ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I am not aware that the sanction of this Council is necessary."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" May I know whether the rules to be published by the Government hereafter would affect these cases ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not think that they will affect these cases."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know how much of the subdivision fees collected goes to the Government and how much to the village officer ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I think, Sir, I must refer the hon. Member to the papers mentioned in clause (*a*). I believe they contain the information necessary."

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—" With reference to clause (*f*), seeing that the fee is collected for service rendered, may I know why a difference is made between one class of applications and another ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" The Government have no objection to charge a uniform rate. In fact, they do so, but certain concessions have been made."